



KAIMUKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 4

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD
MARCH 15, 2006
LILIUOKALANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Abe at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was not present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Abe, Daniel Carvalho, Sharon Schneider.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Edison Lum, Jim Cone, Eduardo Hernandez, Daniel Nahoopii, Randolph Hack.

GUESTS: Glenn Yamasaki, Kimie Kayanagi, Caron and Carson Wilberts, James Toyooka (DOE), Kate Jaremko, Chester Lao (Board of Water Supply), Gail Okamura (Leahi Hospital), Mel Kibara, Stan Fichtman (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office); Lt. A. Delima, Sgt. A. Tsukano, Detective J. Martin, Officer M. Hozaki (HPD), Capt. Myron Tamanaha (HFD-Kaimuki Station), Dr. Susan Jackson (Governor's Office), Yuriki Fassio Ito (Chaminade/Celebrate Kaimuki), Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Gordon Tam (Tam's Shoe Repair), Representative Barbara Marumoto, Jay Ishibashi (Mayor's Office), Representative Calvin Say, Ron Gibson (Diamond Head Crater Festival), Lori Yamada (Senator Les Ihara/Liliuokalani Elementary School), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

FILLING OF BOARD VACANCIES:

THREE OPENINGS IN SUBDISTRICT 1, AREA BOUNDED BY 12 TH AVENUE, KOKO HEAD AVENUE, WAIALAE AVENUE, LUAWAI, PUU PANINI – Deferred due to lack of quorum.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Sgt. Tsukano distributed a written report and highlighted/added the following:

1. Statistics for February show an overall decrease in incidents, especially burglaries in the Sierra Drive and Kaimuki town areas. The decrease is attributed to a number of arrests made in the Downtown area.
2. The report includes "How You Can Help, 9 Pollution Tips."

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Graffiti is an ongoing problem island wide. Arrests have been made of juveniles and some of the graffiti is attributed to "contests" between students who attend different schools. It was noted that school children are a good source of information from what they observe at schools. There are records on file of graffiti made, and the adults responsible for making them. Also, the legislature is working on increasing fines to \$2,000.

Lt. Delima, Sgt. Tsukano, Detective Martin, and Officer Hozaki were thanked for attending the meeting.

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Capt. Tamahana reported the following:

1. Statistics for last month included 6 structure fires, 62 medical calls with 9 cardiac and 5 stroke cases; 2 search and rescue, and 18 miscellaneous calls.
2. Fire Safety Tip: Now is the time to prepare for brush fire season. Brush fires cause great damage in our communities and use resources that could be better utilized elsewhere. Be responsible and dispose of all fires properly. Even small sources of fire, such as cigarettes and



charcoal, can cause immense destruction. Report and remove hazards. Formulate plans for yourself and your family in cases of emergencies. If you are interested in creating a safe space around your home, street, and or community, you can contact Denise Laitinet, of Firewise, at 281-3497 or go to www.firewise.org.

There were no questions from the Board or guests. Capt. Tamanaha was thanked for attending the meeting.

WATER – Chester Lao, from the Board of Water Supply, reported the following:

1. The recent rains have been too much for some areas, such as the Windward side.
2. There were no water main breaks in this area last month, but there was one this month on Sierra Drive in a 78-year old main. Mains in this area are being replaced.
3. Water levels in wells are up at this time.
4. Regarding the recent dam break on Kauai and concerns about dams elsewhere, there are two sizable dams on Oahu, one in Wahiawa and the other in Nuuanu. The one in Nuuanu is used for catfishing and it is not in danger of overflowing.
5. It is unknown what type of construction was used on the dam that broke on Kauai, but conditions may have exceeded its design.
6. Detect A Leak Week was March 5 –11, and he offered to bring toilet tank leak detection tablets to the next meeting for interested persons.

There were no questions. Lao was thanked for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT AND CONCERNS:

BUSINESS OPERATING IN PRIVATE HOME – A resident expressed concern about a proposal received by neighbors to a home at 725-A 16th Avenue from someone who has notified residents of plans to buy the home and establish an office to treat persons with attention disorders. The resident questioned the appropriateness of operating a business in a residential area. Discussion followed on how to find out if this type of business is allowed or not and suggestions that neighbors meet with the person making this proposal. Area residents do not support this proposal, are not interested in a meeting, and concerns include the type of clients and possible adverse impacts on property values. Chair Abe will follow up with the City Department of Planning and Permitting.

At this time Chair Abe deferred the agenda to take the New Business item on the Diamond Head Crater Festival. There were no objections.

NEW BUSINESS:

DIAMOND HEAD MUSIC FESTIVAL – Ron Gibson reported that traffic concerns for the April 1 event, anticipated to be less than that for at the Waikiki Shell, are being addressed by bussing in festival attendees from off-site parking lots assigned by their zip code areas. Twenty-one off site parking lots have been established at locations such as Kaiser High School, Aina Haina Elementary School, Kalani High School, and Kapiolani Community College. Police officers will direct traffic near the crater at 18th and 22nd avenues, and Makapuu Street. Approximately 7,500 – 10,000 attendees are expected, not all would be present at any one time as some would only come to see certain performances.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Ticket prices run from \$125.00 to \$175.00, and are high due to the limited capacity of the event.
2. The event will run from 2:00 – 8:00 or 8:30 p.m.

3. Activities include arts and crafts, and food.
4. This event is part of the Honolulu Centennial, and is supported by the Governor and Mayor.
5. There will be no live broadcast of the concert.
6. There will be large video screens on site to watch the concert.
7. This event is creating 600 – 700 jobs.
8. This is a one-time event, there are no plans for another one.
9. Both tunnels will be used for access to the crater.
10. Clean up the site has been done to prepare for the event.
11. Attendees will be bussed into the event. Only vendors, special guests, etc. will be allowed to drive into the crater for the event.
12. Parking facilities will be shared with KCC and Diamond Head Theater who have events at the same time.
13. Persons in their 50s are the target group for this event.
14. There will be fire department and ambulance apparatuses on site during the event.
15. Representative Marumoto thanked Gibson for his efforts to address her concerns.
16. The crater should be completely cleared of attendees and event personnel by 10:00 p.m.
17. Police, fire, and private security will be on duty for the event.
18. Recent rains should have reduced the likelihood of brush fires.
19. No walk-in attendees will be allowed.
20. The perimeter of the crater will be secured from Friday, and will be able to deal with persons trying to sneak in as occurred with crater festivals of years ago.
21. Some measures being taken exceed those for events at Aloha Stadium which would have more attendees.

Gibson was thanked for attending the meeting.

ELECTED OFFICIALS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES:

MAYOR'S OFFICE – Jay Ishibashi, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the following:

1. A number of questions from last month's meeting will be provided personally to the person, who was not present, making them.
2. Regarding a question about the rerouting of the No. 3 bus, plans are to modify the sidewalk bulbouts on Koko Head Avenue and restore the original route this year.
3. Regarding the Maunalani Park renovation project, the contract was awarded on January 27, will be executed next week and a construction schedule will be requested from the contractor.

4. The Honolulu Centennial festivities at Magic Island will run from March 30 – April 2.
5. Informational materials on recycling, including: a) Curbside Green Waste Recycling, b) Recycling Support for Schools, c) Expand Community Recycling Bins, d) map and schedule for bulky item pick up, were made available for interested persons to review.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Follow up will be done with the new owner of the former Queen Theater about a graffiti problem on the property. It was noted that City and State programs that include the use of volunteers, exist for removal of graffiti, but only on public property.

Ishibashi was thanked for attending the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER ANN KOBAYASHI – Councilmember Kobayashi reported and answered questions on the following:

1. Thanks were expressed for her work on property tax relief measures.
2. Work is being done on reviewing the budget. Suggestions for capital improvement projects are welcome.
3. Today the Council recognized Chaminade University for its upcoming Celebrate Kaimuki event.
4. The Department of Transportation Services is taking steps to improve safety for persons using TheBus and improving traffic flow by removing mid-block bus stops, and locating bus stops after, rather than before reaching intersections.
5. There is no new funding in the budget at this time for work on the Kaimuki municipal parking lots pending input from the Kaimuki Business and Professional Association, the Board and community, etc., on what the City should do to improve the availability of parking.
6. Bill 12 which was just signed into law by the Mayor, recommends the City take the basic budget, adjust it for inflation, and add any increases to fixed costs, then set the tax rate to bring in that amount of money. The current tax rate is \$3.75 per \$1,000 for residential property; there is a proposal to reduce the rate to \$3.59 per \$1,000. The rate reduction will have a greater impact on more people than other measures such as increasing some deductions.

Another tax relief law becoming law provides for persons with a household income of less than \$50,000 a year to either pay the regular tax bill or four percent of the household income.

It was noted an increase in the deduction from \$40,000 to \$80,000 for homeowners under age 70, amounts to an approximate \$150.00 savings.

7. The State legislature is working on legislation relating to alternatives to the present real property tax system.
8. If the tax rate is lowered, it could take effect in time for the August billing.

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU – Stan Fichtman, from Councilmember Djou's Office, reported the following:

1. Bill 72, relating to curbside recycling, was signed into law by the Mayor. The bill requires collection of green waste and one of: glass containers, newspapers, or food waste by July 2007, and two of the three remaining items by July 2008.

2. Councilmember Djou supports the real property tax relief bills passed.
3. The Council is reviewing the Administration's \$2.1 billion budget and department hearings are in progress. The City Auditor's report says the City has no comprehensive strategic plan to manage all of its debt, and the debt service is 12.7 percent of the budget and projected to grow to 22 percent by 2010.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Containers for the curbside green waste collection are being delivered islandwide.
2. Follow up will be done on the meshing of Bill 12 with the bottle bill program.
3. There are no plans at this time to change the trash collection from twice a week to once a week.

Ishbashi was thanked for attending the meeting.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – Dr. Jackson, representing the Governor's Office, reported the following:

1. An inspection of the area of Koko Head Avenue near the State library has determined that some parking restriction signs are missing and will be replaced.
2. Work is being done by the State Department of Transportation Services and the City Department of Transportation Services, on a request to provide left-turn lanes from Koko Head Avenue to Harding Avenue.
3. The arsonist who set the fire at the State Department of Health building earlier this year has been arrested.
4. The Governor went to Kauai to respond to the flooding problem and spoke with residents at a town meeting. The State Department of Health is assisting at recovery and emergency operating centers.
5. Assessment teams will be checking all dams in the state. On Kauai controlled release of water behind one dam is in progress. It was noted Kauai has more than 40 dams.

Dr. Jackson was thanked for attending the meeting.

SENATOR LES IHARA – No report.

REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SAY – Representative Say reported and answered questions on the following:

1. The budget includes funding for school repair and maintenance, new schools, the University of Hawaii.
2. He feels that some of the budget surplus should be reinvested into the community by improving infrastructure.
3. The Governor will likely issue an emergency proclamation to fund relief actions to deal with flood damage. No federal funds are available at this time, certain criteria must be met before the State becomes eligible. Most of the damage has occurred on private property.

Concern was expressed about the appropriateness of allowing development of single homes on 10-acre lots on former agriculture lands. Such homes are not for agricultural activities, but luxury homes.

4. Work on the budget includes having to play catch up to deal with years of budget cuts made to balance the budget.

5. State and county laws specify that the counties' primary source of revenue are property taxes, and other sources include fuel, vehicle registration, sewer and other fees.

Representative Say was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA MARUMOTO – Representative Marumoto distributed her monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. Bills have crossed over between the House and Senate. Work is being done on reviewing the budget.
2. She presented a Certificate of Recognition to Chaminade University which is marking its 50th anniversary.
3. A study has recommended development of a parking structure for Kapiolani Community College.
4. The Red Cross is seeking a \$1 million grant in aid from the State as part of the \$4 million it needs for renovations to its Diamond Head offices.
5. The written report includes a list of some of the bills she co-sponsored and crossed over this session.
6. HPD will be conducting a Keiki ID program at Kahala Mall, April 8, 10:00 a.m.

There were no questions from the Board or guests. Representative Marumoto was thanked for attending the meeting.

ORGANIZATIONS:

KAPIOLANI COMMUNITY COLLEGE – No report.

LILIUOKALANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE – Yamada and Toyooka reported the following:

1. A Family Fun Day, with inflatables, crafts, white elephant sale, shaved ice, etc. will be held on Liliuokalani School grounds, March 25 as part of Chaminade University's Celebrate Kaimuki event.
2. There are plans to consolidate or close area schools.
3. The weighted student formula is adversely affecting east Honolulu schools, with many losing funding. Representative Marumoto noted that there is legislation to help schools so affected make up shortfalls.

Yamada and Toyooka were thanked for their report.

PENDING BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON REAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF – Previously discussed.

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

CELEBRATE KAIMUKI – MARCH 25, 2006 – Chair Abe reported Chaminade University is holding a Celebrate Kaimuki event, on campus, March 25, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Activities include trolley tours, food, entertainment, crafts, and kids fair.

OAHU METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION, CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, OAHU REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN – Chair Abe reported there was discussion on whether the State or City will collect the revenue from the increase in the General Excise Tax to fund the mass transit system.

NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD SUBDISTRICT AND REPRESENTATION REVIEW – Chair Abe reported this Board has three subdistricts, eleven total members, and three vacancies currently exist in subdistrict 1. No persons interested in filling the vacancies were present.

In response to a question about attendance problems at meetings, Chair Abe noted that there was greater interest in attending meetings years ago when the Board was working on Vision Team projects that allocated \$1 million for communities to spend on desired projects, and other projects of interest. Other projects of major interest included proposals to improve the availability of spaces in the municipal parking lots by converting meters to attendant-controlled and development of an automated parking structure. Chair Abe noted that it has been determined that the municipal parking lots generate approximately \$900,000 annually from meter revenue, an good share of that would be lost to pay a contractor to operate the lots as attendant controlled.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 15, 2006 REGULAR MEETING – Deferred due to lack of quorum.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Deferred.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant.